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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,568	04/02/2002	Jarle Rogn Jacobsen	02405.0214	4496

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Finnegan HNederson Farabow Garrett & Dunner
1300 I Street N W
Washington, DC 20005

EXAMINER

PATEL, MOTILAL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3611

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,568

Applicant(s)

JACOBSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Motilal P. Patel

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 14, 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-13 and 16-28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because on line 2 the word "plastic" is misspelled. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use. The headings for each section of the specification is missing (i.e., BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION).

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a

Art Unit: 3611

nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Objections

Claims 5-13 and 16-28 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim can not depend upon another multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 5-13 and 16-28 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claims 1-4 and 14, 15 are objected to because of the following informalities

Claim 1, line 3 the term "plastic" is misspelled.

Claims 2-4 and 14, 15 are objected to because of the following informalities

Claim 2, line 1 the term "characterized" is misspelled.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 1 – 4, 14, 15 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, line 1, the phrase "sign or panel" is indefinite because the terms "sign" and "panel" are not equivalent elements and it is therefore unclear what is being claimed.

Art Unit: 3611

Regarding claim 1, lines 1 and 3, the phrase "e.g.," renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim 1, line 5, the phrase "wholly or partly" is indefinite because it is not clear whether the applicant is claiming that the grooves are extending completely across the plate or partially across the plate.

Claim 1, line 9, the phrase "diffuser plate or display film" is indefinite because the terms "diffuser plate" and "display film" are not equivalent elements and it is therefore unclear what is being claimed.

Claim 1, line 10, the term "and/or" is indefinite because it is not clear whether the applicant is claiming the distribution plate with the reflector plate or claiming in lieu of the reflector plate.

Claim 1, in lines 10-11, recites the limitation "the first side". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 1, line 10 recites the limitation "the plate between a first and a second end thereof". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Art Unit: 3611

In claims 2-4 and 14, 15, line 1, the phrase "An arrangement" is indefinite because it is not consistent with claim 1, line 1, which defines "an illuminated sign or panel arrangement".

In claim 2, line 2 is indefinite since it is not clear whether the first and second light distribution plates include the light distribution plate defined in claim 1 or are additional plates.

In claim 2, line 2, recites the limitation "the grooved". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 3, line 2, recites the limitation "the two light distribution plates". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 4, line 2, recites the limitation "the non-grooved side". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 14, line 2, recites the limitation "the grooves in the first light distribution plate". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 14, line 3, recites the limitation "the grooves in the second light distribution plate". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 15, line 2, recites the limitation "the grooves in the first light distribution plate". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

In claim 15, line 3, recites the limitation "the grooves in the second light distribution plate". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsumoto (U. S. Patent No. 5,386,347).

Matsumoto shows in figures 1,2, and 4-8 an illuminated sign or arrangement comprising at least one light distribution plate (A) having a plurality of parallel grooves (9, Matsumoto discloses in column 7, lines 20-23 that the grooves can be in the form of lines), at least one light source (L) extending transverse to the parallel grooves, and a reflector plate (7). In regard to claim 2, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8 first and second light distribution plates (A, A). In regard to claim 3, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8 a light reflector plate (10) between the two light distribution plates. In regard to claim 4, Matsumoto shows in figure 1 a diffuser plate (1) and defines in column 5, lines 15-19 the idea of placing a film on the non-grooved side of the light distribution plate (A). In regard to claim 14, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8, light distribution plates (A, A) having parallel grooves. In regard to claim 15, Matsumoto shows in figures 6-8, light distribution plates (A, A) having parallel grooves in each plate (A) and the grooves in one distribution plate (A) are laterally offset from grooves in another distribution plate (A).

Art Unit: 3611

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al.(U. S. Patent No. 5,600,455).

Ishikawa shows in figure 10, an illuminated sign or arrangement comprising at least one light distribution plate (12) having a plurality of parallel grooves (13), at least one light source (3) extending transverse to the parallel grooves (13), and a diffuser plate (7).

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. (U. S. Patent 5,408,388).

Kobayashi shows in figure 1, an illuminated sign or arrangement (1) comprising at least one light distribution plate (2) having a plurality of parallel grooves (21), at least one light source (3) extending transverse to the parallel grooves (21), and a diffuser plate (4) and a reflector plate (5).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Liao (5,676,444) and Higuchi (5,887,964) disclose the display system having grooves running perpendicular to the light source.

Tai (5,926,601), Yokoyama (5,402,324), Goto (5,999,685) and Ohkawa (5,997,148) disclose the display system having grooves running parallel to the light source.

Art Unit: 3611

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Motilal P. Patel whose telephone number is 703-305-5141. The examiner can normally be reached on Tues-Fri 7:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 703-308-0629. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2168.


BRIAN K. GREEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER



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February 5, 2003